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METHOD FOR CORRECTING THE POSITION OF THE ANGLE MARKS OF AN
INCREMENTAL GEAR OF A ROTARY SPEED SENSOR AND/OR ROTARY ANGLE
SENSOR AND SYSTEM THEREFOR

Background Information

The present invention relates to a method for correcting the position of the angle marks of an incremental gear of a rotary speed sensor and/or rotary angle sensor and system therefor.

5 In order to record the rotary speed and angle, especially the crankshaft angle and/or camshaft angle of an internal combustion engine, incremental gears are used. An incremental gear has marks on its circumference which are ideally affixed at equidistant angular distance. The incremental gear is scanned by a sensor element. A post-connected slope evaluation detects the position of the marks from the sensor signal.

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However, the actual crankshaft angle is recorded only inaccurately by the marks of the incremental gear. Among other things, the tolerances of the incremental gear (the effective, not equidistant signal-generating wheel marks), of the sensor and the slope evaluation invalidate the angle thus recorded.

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Methods are known for adapting the tolerances of the signal-generating wheel and the angular recording (DE 42 16 058 A1).

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Since a nonuniform rotary motion of the engine is created by compression and expansion of the aspirated air in the cylinders, even in overrun condition, the known adaptation algorithms require models which describe the irregularity with respect to rotation of the engine. After the separation of these signal portions from the measured signal, the signal portions caused by the tolerances of the signal-generating wheel or the angle recording are left over.

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By evaluating the left-over signal portions, for instance, according to DE 42 16 058 A1, equidistant angle marks cannot be detected and subsequently used for compensating the angle errors. Since the models of the irregularity with respect to rotation of the engine are only conditionally accurate, however, the separation of the signal portions described is only

approximately possible. Because of this, there is a residual error for the position of the angle marks.

Furthermore, methods are known of recording and regulating individual parameters of the combustion process in an internal combustion engine, using combustion chamber pressure sensors.

It is the object of the present invention to make available a method for correcting the position of the angle marks of an incremental gear of a rotary speed and/or rotary angle sensor of an internal combustion engine, and a system for this which makes possible an adaptation of the signals of the incremental gear in a simple and yet very accurate manner.

Summary of the Invention

This objective is achieved by a method having the features of Patent Claim 1, as well as by a system having the features of Patent Claim 13.

The present invention has the advantage that, by utilizing the information of the combustion chamber pressure signal, the incremental errors of a measuring system used for recording rotary speed or shaft angle are ascertained and compensated for. This makes possible a more precise control of the internal combustion engine. In particular, using a more accurate angle signal, the fuel quantity to be injected into an internal combustion engine is able to be metered in in cam-controlled systems having lower tolerances.

An accurate recording of shaft angles and rotary speed of an internal combustion engine is made possible, in that the position of the angle marks of the incremental gear and of the non-equidistant portion of the distances apart of the angle marks are determined accurately. The non-equidistant spacing of the angle marks are consequently able to be taken into consideration for calculating the shaft angle and the shaft's rotary speed. In special operating situations of the internal combustion engine, the angular correction is ascertained from the combustion chamber pressure signal.

The compression and expansion phases of the cylinders in overrun condition prove particularly suitable for ascertaining the angle mark correction from the cylinder pressure

curve. In these phases, the derivative of the combustion chamber pressure signal with respect to the crankshaft angle has very large values.

If the cylinder pressure measurement is triggered by the angle marks, errors in the position of the angle marks lead to cylinder pressures deviating from the error-free case. These deviations may be detected and used to calibrate the angle marks. For this reason, the angle of the crankshaft, for instance, may be more precisely ascertained using the present invention described than using known adaptation methods.

Models for the irregularity with respect to rotation of the internal combustion engine, as are known from the known related art, are not required.

Further features of the present invention are derived from the dependent claims.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The present invention is described in greater detail in the light of the figures shown in the drawings and the subsequent exemplary embodiment.

Figure 1 shows the cylinder pressure of various cylinders of an internal combustion engine plotted against the crankshaft angle; and

Figure 2 shows a schematic representation of a system according to the present invention.

According to Figure 1, as a function of the number Z of the cylinders of the internal combustion engine, the working cycle or the crankshaft angle is subdivided into Z different segments in such a way that in each segment there exists one cylinder whose intake and exhaust valves are closed. This cylinder is, at the moment, in a compression phase or an expansion phase, and is selected for this segment for the evaluation of the cylinder pressure for recording the angle mark position.

In the following, it is described how, according to the present invention, for each segment, the position of the angle marks may be corrected with the aid of the cylinder pressure curve. The crankshaft angle of the internal combustion engine is recorded with the aid of an incremental gear 1 that is connected to the crankshaft. This incremental gear 1 has M marks on its circumference which are ideally affixed at equidistant angular distance. (In the case of

incremental gears having missing marks forming a reference gap, M corresponds to the number of complete marks). A sensor element 2 scans the incremental gear. A slope evaluation unit 3 detects the position of the marks from the sensor signal. An incremental counter 4 counts the number k of the marks detected in the current segment. Per segment, preferably 2M/Z marks are present.

Starting from a reference point before the first angle mark, crankshaft angle $\varphi_{KW,nom}(k)$ for angle mark k is given in the error-free case from the incremental counter by the relationship

$$\varphi_{KW,nom}(k) = k \cdot \Delta\varphi_{inkr,ideal}$$

Conditioned upon tolerances of incremental gear 1, sensor element 2 and slope evaluation 3, the angle between individual marks is, however, encumbered with errors, and for each mark k a different angle $\Delta\varphi_{inkr,real}(k)$ is derived.

$$\varphi_{KW,real}(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \Delta\varphi_{inkr,real}(i) \neq k \cdot \Delta\varphi_{inkr,ideal}$$

According to the method according to the present invention, triggered by the detection of the angle marks for each cylinder (5a – 5b) of the internal combustion engine, the combustion chamber pressure $p_{zyl}(1), p_{zyl}(2), \dots p_{zyl}(SM/Z)$ is recorded using pressure sensors (6a - 6b). From this, with the aid of a signal-selecting unit 8, a cylinder counter 7 selects the pressure signal of the cylinder determined for this segment. The measured pressure values are stored in a measured value table 11, and are available for an evaluation at the last angle mark of the segment, after the close of the measurement.

An operating point detection 10 monitors the operating state of the engine and starts the evaluation if the engine is in a predefined operating state. The signal-generating wheel adaptation from the cylinder pressure is carried out preferably in overrun condition, as soon as stable operating conditions set in for the fixed rotary speed. For these operating conditions, a reference table 9 is present in the engine control, in which the cylinder pressures are stored that are derived at the ideal angle mark positions $\varphi_{KW,nom}(k)$. This may, for example, be ascertained beforehand on a test stand for a specimen of this engine type. Figure 1 shows in

each segment an exemplary cylinder pressure curve as it may be stored in the reference table.

Since the cylinder pressure reacts very sensitively to small changes in the operating conditions (charging pressure, charge-air temperature) and, in addition, real cylinder pressure sensors have offset errors and amplification factor errors, a direct comparison of the cylinder pressure values that are measured and tabulated for reference is possible only conditionally. Therefore, advantageously, a possible amplification factor a and an offset factor b are estimated in a signal-conditioning device 12, and the measured pressure signal is correspondingly corrected. This may be done, for example, with the aid of a least-squares estimating method. In this context, the factors a and b are determined in such a way that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{2M/Z} [p_{zyl,table}(i) - (a \cdot p_{zyl,measurement}(i) + b)]^2 \rightarrow Min$$

tends to a minimum. Alternatively to a table, a function may also be used, and the parameters of the function may be estimated correspondingly.

In order to be able to use the method introduced here also in the case of cylinder pressure signals having interference, as a broadening of the present invention, it is also possible, first of all, to store the cylinder pressure values over several working cycles, and to average the measured values for the individual angle marks. By doing this, in addition, stochastic, average-free errors may be compensated for in the signals.

By a comparison of the thus preprocessed, measured cylinder pressure values $a \cdot p_{zyl,measurement}(k) + b$ to the tabulated values, deviations may be determined in an evaluation unit 13 and these, according to the present invention, may be attributed to an erroneous position of the angle marks. The angle $\phi_{KW,korr}(k)$ belonging to pressure value $a \cdot p_{zyl,measurement}(k) + b$ may be calculated, for instance, from a linear interpolation among the tabulated cylinder pressure values. For the position error one may derive $\Delta \phi_{KW,korr} = \phi_{KW,korr}(k) - \phi_{KW,nom}(k)$. This is stored in an angle correction table 14, to which all the other functions in normal engine operation may have access. An adaptation or correction of the position of the angle marks may be undertaken, and the actual crankshaft angle may be precisely determined. This makes possible a more precise control of the internal combustion engine.

Since the signal amplitude of, for instance, an inductive incremental signal generator is strongly dependent on the speed between the sensor and the angle mark, and thus on the engine's rotary speed, rotary speed-dependent errors may also come about in the slope detection required for the angle mark detection. This rotary speed dependence may be compensated for if the calibration of the angle mark separation distances is carried out from the cylinder pressure signal at different rotary speeds and is stored in the angle correction table as a function of rotary speed.

Since a working cycle is composed of two crankshaft revolutions, in the case of engines having an even number of cylinders Z , the crankshaft angle ranges for cylinders i and $i+Z/2$ overlap. The evaluation of the pressure signal of the cylinders $i=1..Z/2$ is sufficient, or the results may have their plausibility checked using the results of cylinders $i=Z/2 + 1..Z$. In the case of engines having an uneven number of cylinders, the segments may be chosen smaller, so that they include the ranges having the largest gradient changes in pressure.

As a matter of principle, position errors of the angle marks immediately around the OT are able to be detected only with difficulty, since at that point the gradient $dp_{zyl}/d\alpha$ having the crankshaft angle α has very small values.

The effectiveness of the method with respect to accurate metering in of fuel quantity may be verified by comparing the metering accuracy using the UIS system (angular metering system) without or with active angular correction by the method described in the present invention.

The effectiveness of the method may further be verified by the curve of the incremental times without and with active angular correction to the method described in the present invention. Using active angular correction, a clearly smoother curve of the incremental times sets in than without angular correction.